

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

The claims 51-89 with claims 90-100 having been previously withdrawn by the Examiner from consideration as directed to a non-elected invention.

Claims 51-58, 60-63, 65, 67-68, 70-79, 80-84 and 87-89 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by *Kensrue U.S. Patent No. 4,954,690*. The remaining claims under consideration by the Examiner were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over *Kensrue* in view of *Fox U.S. Patent No. 4,937,417* (claims 59 and 64), *Hudson et al. U.S. Patent No. 2,808,498* (claim 66), *Huismann et al. U.S. Patent Application Publication No. 2004/0016788* (claims 69 and 86), or what the Examiner calls Applicant Admitted Prior Art at page 16, line 8 of the specification (claim 85).

This rejection is respectfully traversed and reconsideration is expressly requested.

As set forth in claim 51, Applicants' invention provides a welding torch including a torch housing wherein a part of the torch housing is designed as a stator housing of the drive motor of a drive unit arranged in the torch housing. Bearings are provided on the torch housing to stabilize and position a rotor of the drive motor.

As discussed in Applicants' June 22, 2009 Amendment, *Kensrue* fails to disclose or suggest a welding torch wherein a part of the torch housing represents the stator housing of the drive motor and bearings are provided on the torch housing to stabilize and position a rotor of the drive motor. *Kensrue* simply describes a welding torch with a drive motor 16 being arranged inside of the casing 20 or the torch housing. A part of the torch housing is not designed as a stator housing of the drive motor of the drive unit. It is respectfully submitted that FIG. 5 of *Kensrue* clearly shows that the complete motor unit 16 will be arranged between two parts of the casing 20.

If the welding torch according to Applicants' claim 51 were to be disassembled like the welding torch in FIG. 5 of *Kensrue*,

the drive motor would necessarily be disassembled too because the drive motor represents a part of the torch housing 28 as can be seen from FIGS. 5-11 of Applicants' disclosure. Applicants' welding torch as recited in claim 51 offers the advantage of manufacturing tolerances between the position of the motor shaft and the welding wire feed axes being reduced due to the bearing side being located directly on the torch housing or base body, with the only manufacturing tolerance occurring when mounting the bearings within the torch housing. In contrast, the constructions known from the prior art involve tolerance changes due to the end shield being mounted on the welding torch.

Another advantage of the construction set forth in Applicants' claim 51 resides in that optimum cooling is provided for the motor part of the drive motor because the welding torch or torch housing can now be used as cooling surfaces, thus substantially increasing service life. It is essential that the heat formed by the drive motor no longer has to be transmitted from a stator housing to a cooling surface as is known from the prior art but rather that the formed heat is immediately introduced directly into the torch housing. Hence, there are no

more transition surfaces on which heat can build up which may lead to an overheating of the drive motor. In addition, the overall weight of the torch housing including the drive unit will be lower because a part of the electric drive motor represents a part of the torch housing.

The construction according to *Kensrue* shows an independent motor arranged within the casing of the welding torch. Consequently, between the motor 16 and the casing 20 of *Kensrue* an insulating air gap would prevent the dissipation of heat from the motor.

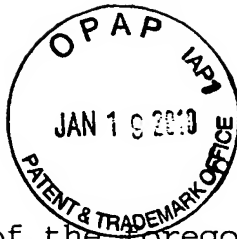
Also the overall weight of the welding torch according to *Kensrue* would be higher than the weight of a torch body according to Applicants' claim 51.

Applicants would also like to point out that in the International patent application on which the above-identified United States patent application is based, *Kensrue* was cited as the closest state of the art, but in the International Preliminary Examination Report, a copy of which was filed herein

on February 20, 2007, all claims were considered to be new and inventive over the prior art.

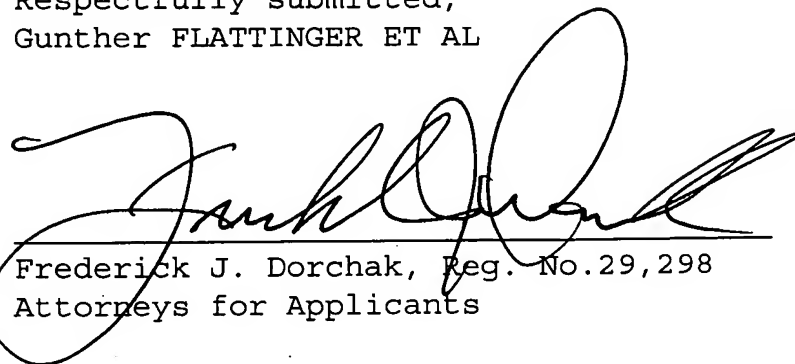
The remaining references cited by the Examiner against certain dependent claims, including what the Examiner calls Applicant Admitted Prior Art, have been considered but are believed to be no more relevant. None of these references or what has been purportedly admitted discloses or suggests a welding torch having the structure recited in Applicants' claim 51 wherein part of the torch housing represents the stator housing of the drive motor and bearings are provided on the torch housing to stabilize and position a rotor of the drive motor.

Accordingly, it is respectfully submitted that claim 51, together with claims 52-89 which depend directly or indirectly thereon, are patentable over the cited references.



In view of the foregoing, withdrawal of the final action and allowance of this application are respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,
Gunther FLATTINGER ET AL

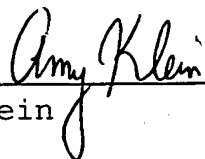


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